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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,306	10/16/2001	Shinichi Yada	110870	4668
25944	7590	07/01/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			WOO, ISAAC M	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2172		8
DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/977,306	YADA, SHINICHI
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Isaac M Woo	2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2004.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is in response to Applicant's Amendments, filed on April 16, 2004 have been considered but are deemed moot in view of new ground of rejections below.
2. Claims 1-3, 8-10, 12-13, 18-20, 22-24 and 27-31 are amended. Claims 1-21 are pending.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7, 10-17 and 22-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Athing et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,498).

With respect claims 1-3, 10, 12-13, 22-24, 27-31, Athing discloses, an electronic information management server (admin server, fig. 3) for classification and retrieval of document (e-mail messages), (col. 1, lines 11-67 to col. 2, lines 1-64), storing means

connected to a network for storing electronic information, see (64, e-mail server, fig. 3, col. 5, lines 41-67 to col. 6, lines 1-12, col. 1, lines 11-61); feature extracting means for extracting a feature of electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network, see (250, fig. 7, col. 8, lines 28-67 to col. 9, lines 1-11); the electronic information is to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means based on an instruction from a client, see (254, fig. 7, col. 9, lines 12-25); and deleting, means for deleting from the storing means via the network the electronic information decided to be deleted by the deciding means, see (254, fig. 7, col. 9, lines 12-25). Athing does not explicitly disclose deciding whether the electronic is to be deleted. However, Athing discloses, "FIG. 18 shows the e-mail display screen, whose configuration is selected by the user and in which e-mail messages are displayed. A row of display window screen buttons provides user operations of compose, send, reply, and delete for messages", see (fig. 18, col. 12, lines 20-47). This teaches when the user can operate "delete" operation, the system operation checks the email messages to be deleted and executes the e-mail messages deleting when the e-mail messages are decided to be deleted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include deciding whether the electronic is to be deleted in the system of the Athing. Because deletion of unnecessary data or information provides saving storage space in the computer system. Thus decision of data deletion helps find unnecessary data or information to be deleted.

With respect to claims 4 and 14, Athing discloses, the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising a character string instructed by the client, see (fig. 18, col. 12, lines 20-47).

With respect to claims 5 and 15, Athing discloses, the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising an image instructed by the client, see (fig. 18, col. 12, lines 20-47).

With respect to claims 6 and 16, Athing discloses, the electronic information is to be deleted is decided by obtaining a feature comprising an image instructed by the client based on image features having a similar image of the image, see (fig. 18, col. 12, lines 20-47).

With respect to claims 7 and 17, Athing discloses, other electronic information related to specific electronic information is also decided as a deletion object together with the specific electronic information decided to be deleted based on the feature, see (fig. 7, col. 9, lines 12-25).

With respect to claim 11, Athing discloses, inputting the feature and transferring it to the instructing and operating system, see (fig. 18, col. 12, lines 20-47).

With respect to claim 25, Athing discloses, deletion timing of the electronic information stored in the temporary storage server is instructed by the terminal equipment, see (col. 12, lines 20-47, col. 9, lines 12-25).

With respect to claim 26, Athing discloses, transfer of electronic information stored in the temporary storage server to the terminal equipment is instructed by the terminal equipment, see (stored on admin server, fig. 3, col. 5, lines 41-67).

5. Claims 8-9 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelley et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,088).

With respect to claims 8-9 and 18-19, Kelley discloses, electronic information management server (server, fig. 8, col. 8, lines 17-41) for classification and retrieval of documents (col. 8, lines 17-41, col. 1, lines 21-51), storing electronic information sent from a network (LAN, ISDN and Internet, fig. 2), see (fig. 8, col. 8, lines 17-41, server has electronic information), and deleting unnecessary temporarily stored electronic information at a predetermined timing, see (fig. 6, col. 9, lines 14-46). Kelley discloses the storing electronic information (fig. 8, col. 8, lines 17-41). Kelley does not explicitly disclose *temporarily* storing electronic information. However, Kelley discloses, great advantage of the present invention is the ability to automatically delete the e-mail message from a server from a delete transaction sent by either the originator or receiver of the e-mail message. By the term "automatically," the server is really deleting the e-

mail message upon the occurrence of a predetermined time or event previously specified in the server delete table, see (col. 9, lines 14-46). This teaches that the e-mail messages are temporality stored until predetermined time, and eventually deleted, rather permanently stored. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include *temporarily* storing electronic information in the system of the Athing. Because the *temporarily* storing electronic information saves data storage space in data management system.

With respect to claim 20, Kelley discloses, unnecessary temporarily stored electronic information is deleted based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information, see (col. 9, lines 14-46).

With respect to claim 21, Kelley discloses, temporarily stored electronic information is transferred based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information, see (fig. 1, col. 7, lines 7-55).

***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

***Contact Information***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW  
June 23, 2004



SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER